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—a general book—on Provinces and Towns, enumerating the principal economic facts and important localities. The third and last volume is divided into four parts; one on Colonial Development and History in General, one on Algiers and Tunis, one on the Colonies and Protectorates, and a fourth—a Résumé on the Colonies. There are also appendices of principal corrections and additions, indexes of charts and topics, lists of collaborators and authorities.

It will be seen that the work is a complete *dépertoire* for the economist—of facts national, political, historical, industrial and statistical. A special and most admirable feature of it is its charts, presenting at a glance all the variations of all important facts. The whole is a complete economic history of France, figured, precise, graphic and readable. It is impossible to imagine anything more complete or more convenient, or more scientific or modern.

The motive which led M. Levasseur to undertake his work was the desire, as he simply and nobly says, to make his country understood. He hopes that the French citizen who reads his work will become convinced that he is the citizen of a country—great in spite of its misfortunes—which has a powerful organization and powerful resources, and whose future depends less on nature, which is still generous to France, than on a good social order, on the industry of the inhabitants and on the wisdom of the government.

Recognizing the necessity of the reader's having always before his eyes a map of France, M. Levareur has published a *Petit atlas de la France (avec l'Algérie et les colonies) géographique et statistique*, and also a *Grand Atlas* of general physical and political geography.

WILLIAM CALDWELL.

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*An Analysis of the Ideas of Economics.* By L. P. SHIRRES, B.A.  
London : Longmans, Green & Co., 1893. 12mo., pp. x+250.

THIS book has the initial merit of being exactly what its title implies. The author had at one time studied simultaneously Political Economy and Jurisprudence, and had been impressed by the contrast between the lucid expositions of the analytical Jurists and those of the Economists. He concluded that the methods evolved in the older department of Social Science might be with advantage applied to the newer one. Taking Austin as his model, and the rules of Bain's Inductive Logic as his instrument, he has arrived—reflecting at intervals during the last ten years—at the definitions of leading economic ideas

which we have in this volume presented along with the lines of thinking that led to them. Mr. Shirres's difficulties, though, while to a certain extent representing merely his personal efforts in determining clearly for himself the relations of the social and political sciences to each other and the content of economic ideas, are, to some extent, significant and typical—and in this lies the real interest of his book. He has felt the efforts and struggles, often on the surface tentative and vacillating, of English Political Economy to get definiteness and consistency and truth into many of its conceptions, and, secondly, the quasi-discrepancy between the ideas of the economists on production, or natural commodities, or social wealth, or exchange value, and the conception of the greatest happiness of the greatest number of the utilitarians from Bentham to Grote and Sidgwick.

The economist who has most enriched the science in a formal regard (by definition, etc.) Mr. Shirres avows to be Macleod; and Jevons is obviously the economist who, in his opinion, has most enriched the science in a material regard (by making Economics deal with pleasures and pains, etc.). The variations of the final degree of utility is the idea which Mr. Shirres works out in the spirit of Macleod and Bain, as introducing order into the realm of economic ideas; the ideas of wealth and value are based on the simpler idea of Supply and Demand—quantity and utility—and imply the Law of Consumption, that “the degree of utility varies with the quantity of commodity, etc.”; and different meanings of value—esteem, value in use, purchasing power—are different aspects of the same quality. The object of the whole organization of industry, our author insists, is final and personal consumption—a result conflicting somewhat with an assertion in his first chapter that Economics examines the machinery of society for directing its labors and distributing the produce thereof. In pointing out this I point out the limits of the book. It takes a place among English and American literature which studies Economics from the side of demand, hoping thereby to simplify and vivify the science. Böhm-Bawerk is only quoted once, and not in a fundamental regard, and the whole European line of thinking, which has brought the social unit into greater prominence than the individual, is not taken much into consideration.

The writing is certainly fresh, independent, clear and positive, but the author ought not to have made so much of his scaffolding [he quotes at great length from Jevons, Bain, etc.,] if he wished his work

to be a scientific contribution and not a mere *Selbstbefreiung*. Then, too, there are many more reliable modern writers on scientific method than Bain, and—apart from his total neglect of Mill and Ricardo—Mr. Shirres might, as an Englishman and a Cambridge man, have done Political Economy the justice of connecting his work with that of Professor Marshall. [He quotes once from the Economics of Industry a description of a market, which is for beginners.] The best thing one can say about the book is that it treats its topic in a free, fresh way; that it is what it pretends to be; and that it is distinctly interesting as coming from the legal, and utilitarian, and *method* point of view.

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*The Tariff History of the United States.* By F. W. TAUSSIG, Ph.D.

New York : G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1892. 8 vo, pp. 344.

*State Papers and Speeches on the Tariff.* With an Introduction by  
F. W. TAUSSIG, Ph.D. Cambridge, 1892. 8 vo, pp. 385.

*The Tariff Controversy in the United States, 1789–1833.* By O. L.  
ELLIOTT, Ph.D. Palo Alto, California, 1892. 8 vo, pp. 278.

PROFESSOR TAUSSIG has enlarged the present, second, edition of his Tariff History by the addition of two new chapters: one, on the tariff act of 1890: the other, on some aspects of the tariff question. Other parts of the volume, more particularly the chapter on the tariff act of 1883, have undergone revision. Whether this is the final form in which the work is to stand we are not told. But it is to be hoped that if it ever passes through a third edition, more extensive additions will be made in the parts of the book dealing with the earlier periods of the history of the protective system, and that some attempt will be made to introduce a greater degree of uniformity in the treatment of the subject. In its present form the volume still preserves too many traces of the character of its origin as a collection of essays. This accidental method of treatment has not been without its advantages, for it has given to the separate parts of the book a certain freshness, directness and pointedness which might have been lost if the work had been originally planned to make a book. At the same time it suffers from lack of uniformity, balance and perspective. Some chapters are a history of legislation, pure and simple; others attempt to trace the economic effects of the tariff in the industrial history of the country.